

The use of **Roundup**, a widely used herbicide containing glyphosate, has raised concerns around the Rossmoor Dog Park due to its potential risks to both human health, pets, wildlife and the environment. This article highlights the dangers Roundup poses to animals and provides guidance on how to protect pets from exposure.

How Roundup Affects All Creatures

- **Dogs & Cats:** Studies suggest a link between glyphosate exposure and an increased risk of **cancers in dogs**, particularly **lymphoma**.
- **Bees & Pollinators:** Glyphosate may disrupt **honeybee gut bacteria**, weakening their immune systems and contributing to **colony collapse disorder**.
- **Birds & Amphibians:** Exposure has been associated with **developmental abnormalities and reproductive issues** in birds and amphibians.
- **Aquatic Life:** Runoff into water sources can **harm fish and amphibians**, affecting their growth and reproduction.

Roundup and Dogs: Risks & Symptoms

Dogs are particularly vulnerable to **glyphosate exposure** due to their habits of sniffing, licking, and walking on sprayed areas. Exposure can occur through **inhalation, skin contact, or ingestion**.

1. Inhalation (Sniffing Treated Areas)

- **Mild Effects:** Sneezing, coughing, nasal irritation, watery eyes.
- **Moderate Effects:** Drooling, nausea, mild respiratory discomfort.
- **Severe Effects (Rare):** Labored breathing, throat irritation, lethargy.
- **Higher Risk Breeds:** Dogs with **respiratory issues** (e.g., pugs, bulldogs) may be more sensitive.

2. Skin & Paw Contact

Walking on recently sprayed surfaces can lead to:

- **Skin/Paw Irritation:** Redness, itching, swelling.
- **Licking Paws:** Ingesting residue may cause vomiting, diarrhea.
- **Repeated Exposure:** Potential liver and kidney strain over time.

3. Ingestion Risks

If a dog ingests freshly sprayed Roundup, symptoms can range from mild to severe:

- **Mild Symptoms:** Drooling, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite.
- **Moderate to Severe Symptoms:** Severe vomiting/diarrhea (possibly with blood), abdominal pain, lethargy, dehydration.
- **Toxic Dose:** Ingestion of 5-10 ml/kg can cause mild symptoms, while 50 ml/kg or more may lead to severe toxicity.
- **Why It's Harmful:** Glyphosate can irritate the gastrointestinal tract, disrupt gut bacteria, and stress the liver and kidneys with prolonged exposure.

How Long Is Roundup Dangerous After Spraying?

- **Wet Roundup:** Most toxic—keep pets away for at least 24-48 hours.
- **Dried Residue:** Less harmful but still a risk if dogs lick their paws.

Preventing Roundup Exposure in Pets

- ✓ **Keep pets away from treated areas for at least 48 hours.**
- ✓ **Rinse paws and fur after walks in potentially sprayed areas.**
- ✓ **Use pet-safe weed control alternatives (e.g., vinegar, boiling water, manual removal).**
- ✓ **Store herbicides securely to prevent accidental exposure.**

What to Do If a Dog Ingests Roundup

- 1. Assess exposure** (how much was ingested and when).
- 2. Rinse their mouth gently** with water.
- 3. Do NOT induce vomiting** unless instructed by a vet.
- 4. Provide fresh water** to help dilute toxins.
- 5. Call a veterinarian immediately** if symptoms appear.

Conclusion

Roundup's potential risks to animals, particularly dogs, highlight the need for caution and preventive measures. By limiting exposure and opting for pet-safe alternatives, pet owners can help keep their furry companions safe from harm.